THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information Technology has not disassociated itself from the revised draft of Communication Convergence Bill, 2001. The Communication Convergence Bill does not seek to bring e-commerce and IT related services under the license regime.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) The Group of Ministers have taken a decision in this regard as stated above.

Entry of software professionals in UK

4209. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale software professionals are entering Britain from India after amendments to work permit rules issued last year to invite more Information Technology-trained foreigners by the' UK Government.

(b) if so, to what extent Indians have been engaged by UK; and

(c) the total Indian IT professionals at present working in UK?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) ; (a) to (c) According to a statement in the UK Parliament by the Minister of State for Employment in January 2001, out of a total of 18257 foreign IT professionals who entered the UK for work in the year 2000, 11474 were from India.

Opening of Protector of Emigrants at Calicut

4210. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed to open an Office of the Protector of Emigrants at Calicut;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Kerala has agreed to provide office space and the required staff on deputation basis; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in commencing the office functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) (a) to (c) A proposal from the Government of